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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to see strongly punitive action taken against Microsoft and there has been absolutely no indication the government is willing to do that.

Microsoft claims their right to "innovate" but this is an absurd statement. The result of their efforts is a dramatic reduction in innovation. Take Windows itself and the Graphical User Interface, that was not a Microsoft "innovation" it was stolen technology. This list goes on and on. The Microsoft philosophy of "embrace and extend" is a dangerous thing. They find someone else's innovation that they like. They incorporate it into their own product. Then they subtly change it. Their vast presence assures that their changes will become the defacto standard and the original, truly innovative, company goes out of business, thus ending any further innovation. This method is being used in the browser space as well and it's critical that the web be built on open, not proprietary, standards.

The notion the Microsoft be punished by donating 1 billion in used computers and software is ridiculous. "Please don't throw me in the briar patch." They have 31 Billion Dollars of cash on hand. 1 Billion is insignificant to them. Even if 1 Billion mattered the idea of used equipment and their own software truly dilutes the effect. It gives them an opportunity to upgrade their own equipment and to promote their software. If I'm not mistaken Bill Gates himself has donated at least a Billion Dollars to schools already, clearly indicating that this is not a problem to them.

Finally, the API, or Application Programming Interface, of Windows must be truly open, as ordered in a previous trial. A standards body, built up of non-Microsoft professionals skilled in programming, should oversee the API implementations. This should help reduce planned API changes designed to disrupt the competition (As Microsoft did with IBM's OS/2). Furthermore any "undocumented" API's found to be used by Microsoft Products such as Office should be met with a heavy fine. Clearly such ability to use features of the OS unavailable to others gives Microsoft an unfair advantage.